

APPENDIX A
"CLEAN" VERSION OF EACH PARAGRAPH/SECTION/CLAIM
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(ii) AND (c)(i)

CLAIMS (with indication of amended or new):

C1 4. (AMENDED) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved according to claim 3, wherein said airtight joining means is a joint formed by welding carried out by one of fusion welding, pressure welding, brazing, soldering or joining using molten glass.

23.1 (AMENDED) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved, comprising:
an outer casing of the endoscope made at least partially of a polymeric material and having an interior; and

C2 a component housed in the interior of the outer casing and constituted as a hermetically sealed unit composed of a plurality of airtight partition members, end parts of said plurality of airtight partition members being hermetically joined to one another such as to at least partially have said partition members overlap one another thereby to provide an airtight space;

wherein the outer casing is formed to provide a first sealing level to hinder liquid from invading into the interior thereof while permitting high-pressure, high-temperature steam given off during autoclaving to invade into the interior thereof; and

the component is formed to provide a second sealing level higher than the first sealing level of the outer casing, to hinder the high-pressure, high-temperature steam penetrating through the outer casing during autoclaving from invading into the interior.

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29. (AMENDED) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved, comprising:
an outer casing means made at least partially of a polymeric material that secures an internal space;

C3 a component housed in the internal space of the outer casing means and constituted as a hermetically sealed unit composed of a plurality of airtight partition members, end parts of said plurality of airtight partition members being hermetically joined to one another such as to at least partially have said partition members overlap one another thereby to provide an airtight space;

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a first sealing means, with which the outer casing means is provided, to provide the outer casing means with watertightness to hinder liquid from invading into the interior of the outer casing means and to provide a first sealing level to permit high-pressure, high-temperature steam given off during autoclaving to invade into the internal space of the outer casing means; and

a second sealing means with which the component is provided, to provide the component with a second sealing level higher than the first sealing level provided by the first sealing means, to hinder the high-pressure, high-temperature steam invading through the outer casing means during autoclaving from invading into the airtight partition members.
